

U.S. WORKERS RESIST GIVE-BACKS

HORMEL STRIKE CONTINUES

Over 500 workers rallied in Austin, Minnesota June 28th to show the Hormel bosses and their UFCW stooges that the strike that began last August 17th is not over. Although the rally was not as large as those held over the winter, it was an indication of the continued support the strikers enjoy throughout the US labor movement. Contingents from as far away as California and North Carolina traveled to Austin to take part in a week-long "Solidarity City" beginning June 22nd, and the rally was the culmination of this week of solidarity. Jim Guyette, the former president of Local P-9 who was ousted by the International trustees of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, claimed that participation in the rally was diminished due to threats of reprisal by the trustees against Hormel workers who participated.

The UFCW International placed Local P-9 in receivership May 7th because the Local had refused to end its strike against Hormel. This move was upheld June 2nd by US District Judge Edward Devitt. Immediately following the ruling UFCW Regional 13 Director Joe Hansen, appointed by the International to administer the trusteeship, began the process of taking over the Local. P-9's elected leadership was removed, the locks were changed on the Local's offices, all files and assets were seized, and negotiations with Hormel were resumed. The P-9ers were also ordered to take off their "Boycott Hormel" badges and destroy all boycott literature and bumper stickers. The food pantry and other relief supplies donated by workers from around the country to support the strikers have also been grabbed, and efforts have been made to take over the funds of the United Support Group, an independent entity set up by P-9 supporters to gather material aid for strikers and families.

In response to the imposition of the UFCW's dictatorship, a petition for a re-certification election, signed by 600 P-9ers, was presented to the National Labor Relations Board June 9th. If the petition were upheld by the NLRB, the election would be between the Original P-9 (the petitioners), Local P-9 UFCW, and no union, and the International would not be able to negotiate a contract until the election was held. However, Original P-9 supporters have charged that Hormel and the UFCW are conspiring to delay an NLRB ruling on their petition.

A spokesman for the Minneapolis NLRB has said that the Board cannot rule on the petition until the NLRB in Washington rules on an unfair-labor-practice charge that was lodged earlier against Hormel for its refusal to pay \$1.2 million in profit-sharing to the members of Local P-9. For its part, Hormel claims that it cannot pay the profit sharing until 27 outstanding grievances filed under the old contract are resolved. These grievances were being negotiated by the UFCW trustees. Original P-9 supporters claim that these delaying tactics are being used because the UFCW is afraid it would lose the election. The Original P-9 estimates that it would have the support of from 12,000 to 30,000 Midwest meatpackers who are disgusted with the UFCW International's sabotage of the Hormel strike and who may be willing to vote for an independent union.

Meanwhile, support for the strike continues to grow. Several UFCW locals have withheld their per-capita dues to the International to protest the trusteeship. A hundred Boston-area trade unionists, representing a number of unions, picketed a Massachusetts AFL-CIO meeting at which UFCW International President William Wynn was given the Gompers-Murray-Meany award (how appropriate). Endorsements of the strike have come from the Ohio Education Association, a regional local of the American Federation of Government Employees, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the California Federation of Teachers, and the National Organization of Women.



The boycott of Hormel products appears to be having some effect as well. Reports are that the workforce in the plant is down to 700, though the company still claims there are 1050 scabs. In addition, workers at the American Can Company in Saint Paul, who make the cans for Spam (which is produced in Austin), say that orders for such cans are down. Hormel's earnings are also down 25.7% from last year, despite an increase in sales due primarily to the addition of FDL Foods plants acquired by Hormel recently.

For the UFCW International the strike is over, at least on paper. But for 900 Hormel workers and their growing army of supporters throughout the country, the battle is far from finished. However if this struggle is to be won, it will be necessary to shut down the entire Hormel operation and get workers in retail outlets to refuse to handle scab goods. Since this is something that the UFCW is obviously not willing to do, workers will have to organize themselves independently to spread the strike.

The Hormel strike has struck a chord within the ranks of American labor, rekindling the spirit of resistance and militancy that built the labor movement. We need to nurture this spirit and build on it for the battles to come.

Mike Hargis

PHILADELPHIA CITY WORKERS STRIKE

About 15,000 city workers and over 5,000 private hospitals went on strike in Philadelphia July 1st after contract talks collapsed. The strike by two district councils of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees was the first since an eight-day walkout in 1978. Both AFSCME councils asked for 16% wage increases and limits on outside contracting for government services.

The strike by some 5,000 aides, orderlies, and practical nurses at eight hospitals was settled hours after it began. But municipal employees, ranging from garbage collectors and clerks to librarians and police dispatchers, were still out on strike when the *IWW* went to press on July 8th.

"We will do everything we can lawfully and legally do to make it an unpleasant situation," said Thomas Paine Cronin, president of AFSCME District 47.



STRIKE AT WEYERHAEUSER

On June 16th, some 8,000 members of the International Woodworkers of America and the Lumber Production and Industrial Workers struck the giant Weyerhaeuser Corporation, shutting down 20 mills and logging operations in the Pacific Northwest. The strike was provoked by Weyerhaeuser's demands for pay and benefit cuts amounting to \$4.30 per hour. The company gave the union till June 23rd to accept this final offer or have it imposed.

The determination and militancy of the strikers was demonstrated early in an incident in Raymond, Washington June 25th, when over 150 strikers and their families succeeded in turning back a train headed for the Weyerhaeuser sawmill to remove finished lumber. The picketers blockaded the tracks with their bodies despite orders from the picket captain to stand alongside the tracks. The confrontation lasted about half an hour while a Weyerhaeuser helicopter hovered above. The following day the company declared its intention to seek a court injunction limiting picketing in Raymond.

HOUSTON STEVEDORES WILDCAT

A thousand members of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) shut down the port of Houston July 1st and 2nd to protest the use of non-union labor hired by Houston Stevedores Incorporated to unload 11 railroad cars filled with the first batch of 20,000 tons of flour destined to be loaded on a ship July 20th. The job would have taken between two and three weeks. The strike stopped loading and unloading operations on 22 ships docked at the port.

About 60 Houston cops were on hand in full riot gear to protect the 25 scabs while they unloaded flour. While the picket was peaceful, there was a lot of verbal harassment of the scabs and an occasional cheer when a scab screwed up.

This was not the first confrontation with the non-union stevedoring company. In January there was a clash between the ILA and some Teamsters Union scabs hired by Houston Stevedores. At that time Hank Milam, owner of the scab outfit, got a temporary injunction to prevent the ILA from interfering with his crews. Another confrontation with non-union workers hired by Houston Stevedores to load a small barge at a grain elevator in Port Arthur took place June 13th. The 20 union longshoremen who confronted the scabs, members of Local 25 of the ILA, were dispersed by police.

Houston Stevedores claims it can load and unload ships faster and cheaper than union contractors due to technological innovations which allow for the use of fewer workers. For long-time union dockers this spells unemployment and loss of pensions. The July 1st wildcat was in defense of union jobs and union conditions.

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Left Side

LEFT SIDE

A few weeks back, your humble scribe was helping man a table at one of the local art-cinema houses, where the movie *Broken Rainbow* was being shown. The purpose of the table was to dispense further information on the forced relocation of some 14,000 Navajo and Hopi people from the Big Mountain area in Arizona, and also to collect signatures on petitions. The response was quite gratifying as people lined up at the table to make sure their names were added to the petitions destined for various politicians.

While it is true that once the corporations have decided they want a strip of land, reams of petitions to politicians are not likely to deter them beyond winning a stay of execution, most people seem to be aware of this and are consequently dedicating themselves a little more forcefully to support work.

Unfortunately, many well-intentioned people have trouble dealing with the Indians' attitude toward what is laughingly referred to as modern technology. They are unable to fully comprehend the Indian sentiment that all coal, oil, uranium, and the like should be left in the ground. They feel that such wishes are unrealistic in the context of the 20th Century. While they may sympathize with the land rights of the Indians, they are all too prone to perceive the Indians' world view as a picturesque relic of the past.

The 20th Century has just about shot its wad, however, as we rush headlong into the 21st. And if any serious consideration is being given to a 22nd Century for the species *Homo sapiens*, it is high time humanity took stock of exactly what is meant by "progressive", and just exactly who is progressive and who is retrogressive.

When the European settlers first came to this continent they believed they had come upon an inexhaustible trove of natural resources. The Indians who had lived on this continent for countless millennia were wise enough to realize that only starvation and death could be inexhaustible, and were constantly engaged in making sure there would be adequate provisions "unto the sixth generation". But today, even with the advantages of modern medicine and health care, there are very few people who live to see even a fifth generation, much less a sixth.

One has only to look at today's mad energy competition between various nation-states to seriously question whether there is even any concern for a second generation. While the extraction of coal and oil from beneath the Earth's surface may be able to ensure the continued operation of "modern" industry for another generation, what will be the cost to future generations of the pollutants caused by these products? Is it possible the Indians knew something their urban brethren did not?

I realize that by this juncture there are some readers who are dismissing this scribe as a hopeless romantic far removed from reality. But said scribe would like to point out that there is nothing romantic about being an Indian or any other kind of minority or underdog in today's society. Romanticism is something only the comfortable engage in, and you may well have noticed that those who talk about "poor but happy" are quite comfortably removed from poverty. The Indians especially had their hands too full just staying alive and providing for their next generation to find time for engaging in romanticism.

For those who are accustomed to hopping into their gas-guzzlers and taking off for another state, it is quite easy to forget that their own great-grandparents, who were too poor to own even a horse, had to hoof it to wherever they were going. And one should also bear in mind that way back in the annals of civilization, humanity had managed to spread over the Earth from some valley in Central Asia or Africa before even the horse was domesticated.

In the modern age, we humans are on the threshold of being able to harness the energy of the Sun on a gigantic scale. There are houses that are completely heated by solar energy alone. The oil that pollutes our waters and the coal that pollutes our air are in limited supply, and taking too much of them out of the Earth is going to create an eventual imbalance. We won't even mention that least-socially-useful element, uranium.

Solar energy is looked upon as "unprofitable" by the energy corporations. However it can be one of the most profitable discoveries in the history of the whole human race. There is no way the Sun will pollute the oceans or reduce the water table. And why continue to deplete our forests when there is so much rock and clay that is capable of building sturdier and more fireproof dwellings? Of course, that could put the insurance companies out of business; but when something becomes outdated, its time has come.

By all means, let's leave all that polluting material in the Earth, which is needed to grow food for our expanding population. The 21st Century is breathing hard down our necks!

C. C. Redcloud

EDITORIAL :

AMERICA'S LIBERTY: A HOLLOW STATUE

Over a hundred years ago Ambrose Bierce portrayed the "Glorious Fourth" as the stupidest and most hypocritical day on the calendar of the "patriotically afflicted". Such a perception accurately describes this year's Statue of Liberty re-dedication follies. But keep in mind that over the last century the stupidity and hypocrisy of America's rulers have expanded at least as much as their military budget.

It is worth recalling that this statue was originally dedicated just days after the death sentence had been passed on the Haymarket anarchists—in other words, just days after definitive proof that America's liberty was a sickening sham. The following year four of these anarchist workmen were judicially murdered as that inane statue smiled on.

It is worth recalling too that although the statue is of a woman, women were not allowed at the original dedication ceremonies. Outraged feminists staged a vociferous protest demonstration from a boat in the harbor, safely clear of the mean-spirited males who had puffed themselves up as official censors and jailers of the day.

Protests are planned for the current re-dedication too, but how successful they will be is anybody's guess. The billionaires and their government are banking on "the biggest Fourth of July ever": an obscene mass ritual of obeisance to warmongering authoritarianism and a good "bread and circuses" promotion to whet the public appetite for full-scale armed invasion of Central America and probably a few other miscellaneous wars on the side.

As the *Industrial Worker* goes to press, government officials have acknowledged that 40,000 security police will be on hand for the occasion to make sure people don't take their liberty too seriously. Think of it: 40,000 gun-toting hirelings of Big Business lurking in the streets, eager to inflict severe punishment on anyone who might thumb his or her nose at a silly statue of Rambo's mother.

Liberty? Who are they kidding? For America's wage-slaves—male and female, black and white, immigrant and native-born, employed and unemployed—that re-dedicated monstrosity in New York is nothing but a Statue of Repression.

Franklin Rosemont

CASE DISMISSED

I thought my courting days were safely behind me until I was summoned to jury duty. I looked forward to my experience with the judicial system as an instructive occasion, and it was. But the closest I got to jury service was the opening and closing of courtroom doors.

Case Number 1: I was excused from an accident case because I had never driven an auto.

Case Number 2: Two sinister-looking individuals were accusing a third fiendish clod of carrying a loaded gun. The only discernible difference between them was that the plaintiffs were white policemen and the defendant was a black man.

The county attorney put each of the prospective jurors through a vigorous grilling: What contacts had we had with the law? What was our military experience? What were our attitudes toward law and society? What organizations did we belong to? How did we spend our leisure? What magazines did we subscribe to? Did we own any bumper stickers?

One young man reported that his bumper sticker read "I Love My Wife". That went over pretty big with the lady lawyer.

What was emerging was a panel of establishment-type citizens whose lives were stimulated by nothing more provocative than conventional church groups, ROTC, and *Better Homes and Gardens*. I was looking forward to livening things up, but my interrogation was brief. When I admitted that I would have trouble accepting the credibility of the plaintiffs' testimony, I was politely dismissed.

Case Number 3 (the illustrious cannonball case) involved a motion-picture stunt performer who entered a faulty stunt machine a vibrant young woman and emerged a quadriplegic. Heidi was going to require expensive medical service 24 hours a day for the rest of her "life". The corporation owning the device was trying to avoid payment of damages by shifting responsibility for the accident to the performer.

One of the lawyers asked each juror if, in the event that the corporation was found innocent of negligence, we could look the defendant in the eye and tell her she would not receive one penny. Most of the panel, dazzled by the prospect of reporters and flashing TV lights, said yes. Three of us were excused.

Case Number 4 was a transaction involving a corporation versus a private citizen. Asked if I had ever been a witness in a lawsuit, I admitted to several appearances in civil-rights cases 30 years ago. "And yes, I would have a little trouble being impartial where a corporation was concerned."

"Did your bias against corporations stem from your civil-rights days?" asked the black judge.

"No, it developed quite a while before."

Exit.

After eight-and-a-half days of my scheduled ten-day stint as a juror, the admissions clerk dismissed me *permanently* from jury duty.

(continued on Page 7)



POSTAL RATES FOR LABOR PRESS SOAR

The Reagan Administration has won its first battle with second-class mailers—which include hundreds of union publications (from international and local unions, state and central labor bodies, and non-advertising labor journals like the *Industrial Worker*) by eliminating the Government subsidy for non-profit mailers. It now costs 12.5¢ to mail each piece, an increase of more than 1200% since 1970. In addition, if the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget-axing measure is not repealed, a further increase is guaranteed.

Freedom of speech for workers and their organizations will be greatly curtailed, and some silenced completely, by the implementation of such harsh economic measures. Letters requesting re-instatement of the subsidy should be sent to your two Senators and US Representatives, with copies to Democratic Representative William Ford of Michigan, chairman of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee, and to Republican Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, chairman of the Senate Civil Service and Post Office Subcommittee. The pertinent zip codes are Washington DC 20510 for Senators and 20515 for Representatives.

Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World

THE WORKING CLASS AND THE EMPLOYING CLASS HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON! THERE CAN BE NO PEACE SO LONG AS HUNGER AND WANT ARE FOUND AMONG MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE FEW, WHO MAKE UP THE EMPLOYING CLASS, HAVE ALL THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.

BETWEEN THESE TWO CLASSES A STRUGGLE MUST GO ON UNTIL THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZE AS A CLASS, TAKE POSSESSION OF THE EARTH AND THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION, AND ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM.

WE FIND THAT THE CENTERING OF THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES INTO FEWER AND FEWER HANDS MAKES THE TRADE UNIONS UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE EVER GROWING POWER OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE TRADE UNIONS FOSTER A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH ALLOWS ONE SET OF WORKERS TO BE PITTED AGAINST ANOTHER SET OF WORKERS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY, THEREBY HELPING DEFEAT ONE ANOTHER IN WAGE WARS. MOREOVER, THE TRADE UNIONS AID THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MISLEAD THE WORKERS INTO THE BELIEF THAT THE WORKING CLASS HAVE INTERESTS IN COMMON WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS.

THESE CONDITIONS CAN BE CHANGED AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING CLASS UPHOLD ONLY BY AN ORGANIZATION FORMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ANY ONE INDUSTRY, OR IN ALL INDUSTRIES IF NECESSARY, CEASE WORK WHENEVER A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT IS ON IN ANY DEPARTMENT THEREOF, THUS MAKING AN INJURY TO ONE AN INJURY TO ALL.

INSTEAD OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOTTO, "A FAIR DAY'S WAGE FOR FAIR DAY'S WORK," WE MUST INSCRIBE ON OUR BANNER THE REVOLUTIONARY WATCHWORD, "ABOLITION OF THE WAGE SYSTEM."

IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS TO DO AWAY WITH CAPITALISM. THE ARMY OF PRODUCTION MUST BE ORGANIZED, NOT ONLY FOR THE EVERY-DAY STRUGGLE WITH CAPITALISTS, BUT ALSO TO CARRY ON PRODUCTION WHEN CAPITALISM SHALL HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN. BY ORGANIZING INDUSTRIALLY WE ARE FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY WITHIN THE SHELL OF THE OLD.

*EDUCATION *ORGANIZATION *EMANCIPATION

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

Industrial Worker

P. Ames, R. Christopher, C. Cortez, J. Garland
M. Hargis, P. Pixler, F. Thompson

General Secretary-Treasurer: Mark Kaufmann

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IS YOUR JOB KILLING YOU?

HUMAN CANARIES at Union Carbide: Readers of this column will remember that Union Carbide (the firm that made Bhopal, India famous) has been running its US plants less than safely as well. New outrages continue to surface from investigations of the chemical leak at Union Carbide's Institute, West Virginia plant that sent 130 local residents and 6 workers to the hospital last September. The most recent finding is that Union Carbide routinely "tested" for leaks of deadly phosgene gas by using one worker on each shift as a "sniffer". The worker was told what phosgene smelled like, and sent to sniff for leaks in areas where the gas was stored or piped through. They used to use canaries for that kind of thing, but then canaries cost money.

THAT SCALDS WITH "SAFETY": This column has spent a lot of ink discussing the uselessness of most current safety equipment, or "personal protective equipment", as it tends to be called. Now it appears that at least one piece of personal protective equipment can be dangerous as well. Vapor-barrier coveralls are used in many situations where workers are exposed to dangerous chemicals. These plastic-lined coveralls are supposed to prevent skin exposure to dangerous liquids and dusts. Similar coveralls are used in some industries (like food service and health care) to avoid possible contamination. The problem is that the plastic lining that keeps chemical hazards out also keeps heat in. In summer, especially, this can be a serious problem.

The June 1986 issue of the *Journal of Occupational Medicine* reports cases of heat exhaustion and potentially-fatal heat stroke caused by vapor-barrier coveralls. Use of such coveralls should be eliminated wherever possible. Instead, the chemicals the coveralls are supposed to be protecting against should be removed from the workplace or enclosed. If vapor-barrier coveralls must be worn for some reason, workers wearing them should have frequent rest breaks in an area where they can take them off and cool down. In summer months no worker should have to wear a vapor-barrier coverall more than a few minutes at a time except in air-conditioned areas.

WRECKED: There has been great enthusiasm among employers lately for drug testing of workers, despite the high number of false-positive results (as high as 20%) even in honest, well-run labs, and the scarcity of such labs. A regulation passed in May of this year by the US Federal Railroad Administration provides for mandatory testing of all railway workers involved in train wrecks for recent drug and alcohol use. So seriously has the FRA taken this mandate that it tested the entire crew of a Cotton Belt Line train in Arkansas that was knocked off the tracks by a tornado. But regulation can go too far, and perhaps that's why Robert B. Claytor of the Norfolk Southern Railroad, who was at the controls in a wreck that injured 200 people, wasn't tested. It seems that Mr. Claytor is Chief Executive Officer of Norfolk Southern. One has to draw the line somewhere, after all; and in our capitalist (pardon me, free-enterprise) system, the board room seems to be the place to draw it.

CADMIUM LIMITS: Cadmium is a metal used in batteries, paints, pesticides, plastics, and some metal alloys; in electroplating steel; and in welding. Overall, around 1,500,000 workers in the US alone are exposed to cadmium, which has been known for some time to cause kidney damage and cancer. The legal limits set by the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration for exposure to cadmium are 0.1 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/cum) for cadmium fumes, and 0.2 mg/cum for cadmium dust. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, however, 51 workers will die of cancer for every thousand exposed to the OSHA cadmium limits. The US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has recommended a legal limit of .04 mg/cum since 1977.

THE COPY RASH: Many clerical workers suffer from skin rash, nasal congestion, hoarseness, cough, and sore, itching eyes. They are among the 10% of the population that is "sensitive" to carbonless copying paper. Carbonless copy, widely used in forms, gives off formaldehyde, Michlers Hydrol, and a number of other chemicals used in their manufacture. While the symptoms end quickly when exposure to carbonless copy is ended, repeated exposure often leads to worse symptoms. Generally, carbon-paper copy forms should be used instead of carbonless forms. Where this isn't possible, workers sensitive to carbonless copy should be permitted to transfer to jobs that don't involve exposure without loss of either pay or benefits.

R. Christopher, RN



SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The number of paid women workers in the US has risen to 48,000,000—43% of the total workforce. Yet some of the male 57% are still having problems adjusting to female co-workers. Women in every part of the workforce face sexual harassment on the job from male bosses and male co-workers.

WHAT IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT?

Sexual harassment, according to a pamphlet put out by the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), is "... any repeated or unwanted verbal or physical advances, sexually-explicit derogatory statements, or sexually-discriminating remarks made by someone in the workplace which are offensive or objectionable to the recipient, or which cause the recipient discomfort or humiliation, or which interfere in the recipient's job performance".

The AFSCME pamphlet points up the problems faced by victims of sexual harassment, noting that "Past experience shows that instances of sexual harassment do not get better if ignored. Yet many victims feel isolated and powerless and do not complain, so the harassment goes unchecked and often escalates. Attempts by individual victims to handle the problem are usually unsuccessful. An unsubstantiated charge brought by an



individual against a supervisor may be easily ignored. Keeping a log or a diary of incidents may be useful, but since the victim is usually alone, it usually comes down to one person's word against the word of another with more power and influence." Like most on-the-job problems, sexual harassment can best be resolved by collective action.

To be charitable, some men may not realize they are being offensive. A study cited in Gutek's *Sex and the Workplace* showed that 84% of the women interviewed, but only 59% of the men, defined sexual touching at the workplace as harassment. Men are more likely to view sexual encounters at work positively and to see them as mutually entered into. Gutek reported that 67% of the men interviewed but only 17% of the women said they'd be gratified if asked to have sex by a co-worker of the opposite sex (15% of the men and 63% of the women said they'd be insulted). A man unwittingly engaging in sexual harassment will usually stop when matters have been explained to him, but this hasn't happened very often. More than half the women interviewed in *Sex and the Workplace* said they had experienced sexual harassment, and 20% had quit or been fired or transferred because of sexual harassment.

THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

Most people involved in the entertainment industry acknowledge that sexual harassment is widespread in this field. The Screen Actors Guild has set up a hotline to deal with sexual harassment and related complaints. Says actress Timothy Blake, head of the SAG Women's Committee: "Everyone is afraid. It makes people nervous just to talk about it, because suddenly you get branded as a troublemaker and people don't want you around anymore."

One entertainment worker who went public with her charge of sexual harassment is stuntwoman Jean Coulter. In 1980 Coulter, a veteran of shows like *Hart to Hart* and *Charlie's Angels*, turned down a demand for sexual favors from Roy Harrison—stunt co-ordinator at a Spelling-Goldberg film shooting—despite his threat to blacklist her. Harrison made good on his threat, and Coulter hasn't worked for Spelling-Goldberg since the incident, going from 199 to only 12 working days a year. "It took me a long time to realize the blacklist was really happening," said Coulter. Four years after the incident, she filed a lawsuit against Harrison and Spelling-Goldberg Productions. But Harrison denies making the threat, and as his lawyer points out, "... it's her word against his."

THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The construction industry has proved equally problematic for current and would-be tradeswomen. Pressure

from civil-rights organizations recently broke the 5% ceiling on black enrollment that existed for many years at places like Chicago's Washburne Trade School, but the 5% cap is still there for women. Moreover, those women who are admitted to trade schools are faced with pervasive sexual harassment from teachers and male students, and little or no support from school administrators. Chicago Women In Trades (CWIT) reports that Washburne principal Ralph Cusick dismisses complaints of sexual harassment, saying that men are understandably resentful of women taking away men's jobs.

Sexual harassment at the worksite is often an extension of the situation in the trade schools. A 1985 study of Washburne by the Office of Civil Rights of the US Department of Education endorsed CWIT's complaints that for women students the school engenders "an atmosphere of sexual isolation and harassment" and provides inferior training.

SOLUTIONS

As is almost always the case, organization is the key. Most women work in areas where they make up a majority of the workforce, as in the clerical field, or at least a substantial proportion, as in entertainment. Contract clauses specifically forbidding sexual harassment, as have been won in some contracts, can be useful in these areas. Most important, however, is women's willingness to act together at work to stop sexual harassment. In industries where women make up a majority of the workforce, everything stops without women's work, and even a calculated decrease in speed or accuracy can make a crucial difference.

The situation of women in "non-traditional" jobs like construction is more difficult. Typically, there aren't enough women on any one job to make a big difference in these areas. However, organizing union caucuses or associations like CWIT can at least allow women workers to support each other and back each other's complaints. Ideally, women in industries where they are a majority might be able to pressure other industries to ease up on women in "non-traditional" jobs by refusing to handle work from companies with a reputation for tolerating or promoting sexual harassment. This has already been done to some extent in Iceland and a few other countries, and with effective organization it could be done here.

plp

HIGH-TECH PITS: SILICON VALLEY

Sudden layoffs always were part of the game in Silicon Valley, America's most-concentrated computer-manufacturing region, south of San Francisco, as start-up companies failed. But until 18 months ago, former employees could figure on finding new jobs in the industry fairly quickly, so they shrugged off the lack of advance warning and minimal severance pay. Now the bubble has burst, however, and companies are no more generous in bad times than in good.

Electronics jobs in Santa Clara County (the heart, or perhaps one should say "central processor", of Silicon Valley) shrank 5.2% in 1985 from 1984 levels. Between January and April of this year, the County lost another 1500 jobs.

Employers say they withhold notice of layoffs for several reasons, including fear that recruiters will prey on a company if it divulges its weakness. Some companies say keeping outgoing employees around more than a day destroys the morale of survivors. Most commonly, employers fear that workers given advance notice of layoffs might "corrupt" sensitive information in easy-to-change computer data banks or sabotage equipment.

As is the case nationwide, severance benefits in the Valley usually favor middle and upper management over clerical and production staff. In a 1983-84 survey by the General Accounting Office, 53% of white-collar layoffs were offered severance pay, but only 34% of blue-collar layoffs. Health insurance was kept in force for 42% of white collars, 32% of blue. Job-search assistance was offered to 32% and 21% respectively.

With little unionization in the Valley and little enough in the computer industry as a whole, short-changed layoffs have been out of luck. The threat of a class-action lawsuit by 537 former Atari workers who charged that the company had given them no notice when it laid them off in 1983 won them an out-of-court settlement of \$6,000,860 plus legal fees June 3rd. Real rank-and-file unionism, however, might win the workers more than a little money—it could win them some say-so on the job.

DID YOU NOTICE?

AFSCME KNOCKS AIDS DISCRIMINATION: Gerald McEntee, president of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, issued a statement on June 26th condemning the Justice Department's ruling that AIDS patients do not meet the 1973 Rehabilitation Act's definition of handicapped persons, and therefore are not covered by laws forbidding discrimination against the handicapped. The "Justice" Department maintains that fear of catching the disease is enough to sanction discrimination unless the fear is merely "a pretext for discrimination on account of the handicap", and that therefore a positive antibody test result may be a legitimate ground for discrimination.

International News

AFL-CIO-CIA CONNECTION

At the close of World War II, at a time when the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) were busily purging their organizations of any hint of labor internationalism, both organizations were working hand-in-glove with the budding US-based multinational corporations and the CIA to help make the world safe for capitalism. The first direct organizational co-operation between the AFL and the CIO came in July 1948, when they worked together to promote organized-labor support in Europe for the Marshall Plan, arguing to European labor that it was not a plot hatched by US imperialists. The AFL formed the Free Trade Union Committee to split European labor.

But the AFL was already knee-deep in Latin America. Speaking to the AFL International Labor Relations Committee in 1946, Nelson Rockefeller, whose family had no small interest in Latin America, said the US was trying to organize a Pan American Union for Latin American Labor, since the Latin American Confederation of Workers (CLAT)—the largest worker confederation in Latin America—was opposed to the political goals the US had set for the region.

The AFL then set about establishing the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers (ORIT) to undercut CLAT, and in 1962 the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD). ORIT subsequently endorsed the overthrow of democratically-elected presidents of Guatemala (Arbenz) and Brazil (Goulart), and US intervention in the Dominican Republic. Ten days after the overthrow of Arbenz, Serafino Romauldi of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union helped ORIT re-organize Guatemalan labor on an "anti-communist" basis. Three years later, wages on 75% of the Guatemalan plantations were significantly reduced.

In Chile, the National Workers' Confederation, set up by the AIFLD, served as the chief labor organization of the Chilean junta after the overthrow of the Allende Government. And in Honduras, United Brands used the AIFLD to destroy the banana workers' federation.

In El Salvador, the AIFLD helped set up a new labor coalition, Popular Democratic Unity (UPD), in 1980 to support the Salvadoran military junta headed by Napoleon Duarte. By 1984, after Duarte's election, UPD members began to grow restive and draft statements critical of US military aid and Duarte's failure to live up to his campaign promises. The AIFLD then threatened to remove support for the labor federations. (It provided 80% of the budgets of four of the five UPD unions.) When the UPD leaders persisted, the AIFLD made its threat good and tried to establish yet another, rival labor federation loyal to the Duarte regime.

The AIFLD, of course, is only one of the AFL-CIO-CIA's tentacles. There are also the African-American Labor Center (AALC), which operates in at least 25 African countries including the Union of South Africa; the Asian-American Free Labor Institute (AAFLI), which works in Near Eastern and Far Eastern countries; and the Free Trade Union Institute (FTUI), which works in Europe and channels National Endowment for Democracy (NED) money to the other labor institutes.

THE AAFLI IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Asian American Free Labor Institute was set up in 1968 to "provide urgently-needed technical assistance" and "promote the growth of free and effective trade unions". In practice, the AAFLI's agenda has been to promote the interests of US business.

In the Philippines, intensifying political instability following the 1983 assassination of Benigno Aquino caused Washington worry about increasing labor militancy, fast-growing communist insurgency, and rising popular demands for removal of US bases. A multi-million-dollar funding boost from Congress sent the AAFLI scrambling to support the pro-Establishment Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) against the Kilusang Mayo Uno or May First Movement (KMU).

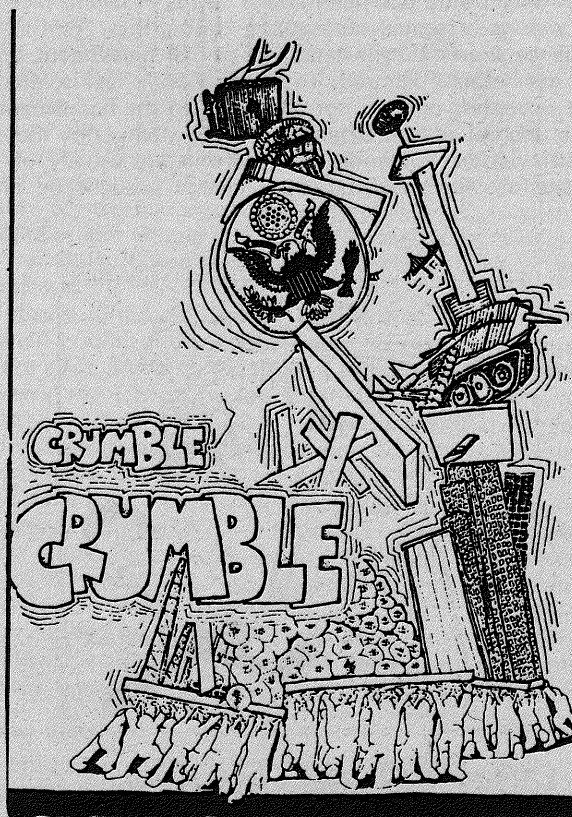
Over the last five years the militant workers' movement in the Philippines has been spreading rapidly, fueled by unemployment and underemployment, which affect nearly half the working population; poverty, which according to Government estimates plagues at least 70% of the population (the poverty line is \$125 per family per month); and slumping demands for sugar, a major export, which have left 400,000 sugar workers facing starvation on the island of Negros. Progressive labor groups have allied themselves with the KMU, a 500,000-member federation founded five years ago by unions and labor activists disenchanted with the TUCP's principle of tripartite co-operation between labor, management, and government. The TUCP rarely challenges anti-labor laws, and has even defended mass arrests of workers under the Marcos regime; not surprisingly, its ranks have dwindled from 2,000,000 when it was formed to 1,200,000 in the spring of 1986.

Details about the location and scope of AAFLI projects in the Philippines are kept secret by mutual agreement between the AFL-CIO, NED, and a House foreign-affairs subcommittee. In April 1985, an internal memorandum from the AFL-CIO to NED listed the Philippines among the countries that might be "endangered or embarrassed" if specific budgets were announced. The

NED endowment records were exempt from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act until early this year.

THE AAFLI IN KOREA

South Korea is one of the most industrialized countries of the Third World, and thus presents the AAFLI with a task somewhat different from that undertaken in the largely-rural Philippines. Since opening an office in 1972, the AAFLI has supported the Government-sanctioned Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU). The AAFLI provides unions with its standard fare of financial assistance for labor education, co-operatives, credit unions, health-care programs, and language train-



ing as well as occasionally financing visits to the US by South Korean unionists.

In a country where, in the words of a former US labor attaché to Seoul, the Government "treats workers like we used to treat the blacks", the AAFLI's overt style of trade unionism has become more and more irrelevant. Since 1980, US corporations have directly invested more than \$200 million in the Korean automobile, electronics, and computer industries, and US banks have loaned billions more. Under cover of building free trade unions, the AAFLI's activities support unions that do not challenge these interests, and covertly hinder those that do.

In the last two years, the Korean labor movement, repressed in 1980 after the takeover by the Chun military government, has re-emerged. Workers have organized more than 50 unions and have taken to the streets and engaged in illegal strikes to demand political reform and better wages and conditions. Employers have reacted to the labor upsurge by mobilizing gangs to attack strikers, firing union sympathizers, forming company unions, and simply refusing to engage in collective bargaining. The Government has made mass arrests of workers, including several hundred last year who walked out in sympathy with workers from the Daewoo Apparel Company.

The reaction from the AAFLI staff was to side with the Government by suggesting that the labor activists were not "genuine trade unionists". Back in Detroit, however, the United Auto Workers, though not much given to outbursts of international solidarity, began to realize that there may be a connection between the fierceness of the repression of South Korean unionism and the cheapness of the Korean cars which are undermining US auto jobs.

In October of last year, at the national AFL-CIO convention, delegates challenged federation foreign policy for the first time, charging that it was following the Reagan Administration dictates at the expense of workers in the US and overseas. A resolution was passed denouncing the renewed campaign of labor repression in South Korea. No move was made to disband the AAFLI, AIFLD, AALC, or FTUI. But perhaps the prolonged high unemployment in the US may yet cause AFL-CIO members to realize that their self-interest is better served by aligning with workers in other countries than by aligning with their corporate bosses.

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South African Labor News

SOUTH AFRICAN WORKERS STRIKE

Millions of black workers stayed away from work June 16th to mark the 10th anniversary of the Soweto Uprising, despite the draconian "state of emergency" declared by the Botha regime June 12th. The state of emergency gave security forces the power to hold people incommunicado indefinitely without bringing charges against them. In addition, all members of the security forces were granted immunity for any acts they might commit in "good faith" in connection with their use of emergency powers. A limited state of emergency was in effect from July 1985 through last March, when more than 8,000 people were detained without charge (over 2,000 of them children under 16) and many were tortured or ill-treated.

The new state of emergency was imposed over the whole country to prevent any outbreaks in connection with the commemoration of the Soweto events. The fact that the black trade unions had called for a three-day general strike to mark the anniversary was no doubt a major consideration. This contention is borne out by the special attention paid to trade-union leaders and activists in raids conducted the night of June 11th and early hours of June 12th, even before the state of emergency was formally declared. Of the more than 3,000 people detained under the state of emergency, at least 146 are leaders of the 500,000-member Confederation of South African Trade Unions (COSATU).

In the wake of the June 16th general strike, thousands of workers in various industries staged sit-down strikes to demand the liberation of trade unionists detained under the emergency laws. This tactic paid off in that business leaders have put pressure on the regime to release the unionists to bring an end to these spontaneous work stoppages. As a result of these actions 12 leaders were released June 26th and 27th, including Piroshaw Camay, general secretary of the Council of Unions of South Africa (CUSA), and many union leaders who had gone into hiding to avoid arrest and possible torture began to re-surface, defying arrest.

Further details on the current situation in South Africa, and on the strike itself, are difficult to come by due to the severe press restrictions imposed by the apartheid government. However one thing is certain: The power of the working class is making itself felt, and is proving to be the greatest threat to the apartheid state.

SOUTH AFRICAN UNIONISTS' treason trial collapses: On June 23rd, four officials of the South Africa Allied Workers Union were acquitted of treason charges after the judge threw out the audio and video tapes that were a key part of the State's case. The four were arrest-

ed nearly two years ago, and held nearly eight months before being released on bail.

MORE SOUTH AFRICAN unionists arrested: On the last weekend in June, Amnesty International confirmed reports that Elijah Barayi, president of the 500,000-member Congress of South African Trade Unions, had been arrested. Moses Mayekiso, general secretary of the Metal and Allied Workers' Union, was arrested in Johannesburg June 28th. Human-rights groups estimate that 900 labor unionists have been arrested in the crackdown against anti-apartheid activists that began with the emergency decree on June 12th.

IRISH SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE

In late May sanitation workers in Dublin, Ireland began a three-week strike after rejecting a 7% pay-hike offer by the Dublin Corporation. The 4200 workers who staff the city's water and sewage works, collect garbage, maintain street lighting, and clean the streets demanded a 15-pound flat-rate increase that came out to just over a 10% average increase. Army scabs manned the water and sewage works during the strike, and on June 5th *gardai* clubbed picketers as they sought to block passage of army vehicles.

The three striking unions—the FWLU, IMETU, and ITGWU—responded by organizing a 1,000-strong protest march and called on the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to grant the strike all-out status, which would mean a citywide general strike. Faced with the threat of a shutdown of all the city's administrative and maintenance activities, the city corporation conceded the workers' demand for a flat-rate increase, which would proportionately benefit the poorer-paid workers more than a percentage increase.

TWO-DAY GENERAL STRIKE IN CHILE

On July 2nd and 3rd, 60% of the workers in Santiago and 95% of the truckers in Chile honored a strike call by a coalition of 18 professional, labor, student, and other groups called the Assembly of Civility.

In Santiago's poor neighborhoods, people put up barricades and stoned passing vehicles. Many busses were abandoned on the street after having windows broken and tires slashed. Police and army troops fired into the barrios, killing five people, including a 13-year-old girl who was shopping for bread, in the barrio south of Santiago called Poblaciones, where 50 people were wounded. One other person was killed elsewhere, and there were unconfirmed reports of two additional deaths.

Revolutionary Union News

50 YEARS OF THE SPANISH REVOLUTION

Fifty years ago—on July 18th, 1936—Generalissimo Francisco Franco declared his *pronunciamiento* against the Popular Front government of the Spanish Republic. While this coalition of working-class and bourgeois parties wrung their hands and hoped against hope that there were enough loyal troops to put down the rebellion, the working class of Barcelona, organized by the Confederal Defense Committees of the anarcho-syndicalist National Confederation of Labor (CNT), took the initiative, seizing arms from the Guardia Civil barracks and the sporting-goods shops, and went into the street to meet the fascist menace head-on.

They defeated the Francoist forces July 19th—stopping them dead in their tracks. Then the Spanish workers set about the task of creating the Social Revolution. They began by seizing the factories, schools, and offices, setting up workers' councils made up of elected and revocable candidates to manage the collectivized enterprises. They followed this up by raising a workers' militia which set off for the province of Aragon to drive out the fascists.

This was no ordinary army. This was a people in arms, without an elite hierarchy of officers, led by ordinary workers given the responsibility of leadership under the firm control of the rank and file. Everywhere this militia went they brought with them the Revolution. Literally hundreds of rural communes were organized in their wake, not only collectivizing the land and machinery, but also organizing their own local industry.

But alas, this tremendous experiment in the creation of Comunismo Libertario was short-lived. The triple alliance of Stalinism, Capitalist Democracy, and finally Fascism drowned the Revolution in blood. But the heroic example set by the Spanish working class will never be forgotten.

Today, 50 years later, the struggle for a new society based on workers' self-management and liberty, which the Spanish workers fought and died for, is still alive. On this occasion of the 50th anniversary of that tremendous battle, we must re-dedicate ourselves to realizing its fulfillment. Long live the Social Revolution!



PROFILE: UNIONE SINDICALE ITALIANA

The Italian Syndicalist Union, the Italian section of the International Workers Association, held its second congress (since its reconstruction in 1979) at the end of March in Torino. In an interview printed in the anarchist weekly *Umanita Nova*, the outgoing USI secretary, Gianfranco Careri, gave a brief account of the present situation of our revolutionary-syndicalist fellow workers in Italy.

The first thing the ex-secretary pointed out was that, contrary to popular opinion, the USI is not a "specific" anarchist organization. Most of its current membership

has been recruited off the job. He stressed that, as a revolutionary union, the USI does not demand that members subscribe to a particular ideology, only that they agree to adhere to the principles and rules of the organization. Consequently workers from many different perspectives are members. In addition to people from the libertarian (anarchist) movement, there are "greens", radicals, people from Democrazia Proletaria, and even some people who have participated in the various parliamentary parties. He was quick to point out, however, that the USI statutes do not allow those who hold positions of power in public institutions or political parties to hold office in or be members of the union.

Next, Careri discussed the industrial sectors where the USI has created a presence. The health sector is definitely the most prominent in this regard. Here the USI has built union sections in Rome, Trieste, Torino, and the Marche and has reached the point where it is able to present an alternative collective-bargaining program to that of the reformist unions. USI school workers have also elaborated such a counter-platform. Air transport is another industry in which Italian revolutionary unionists have had some success, organizing a strong section among air-traffic controllers. Union sections can also be found in the agricultural, post-and-telegraph, and public-transportation sectors, and efforts are being made to draw unemployed and part-time/temporary workers into dialogue with the USI.

Careri also pointed out that the USI does not limit itself to strictly on-the-job concerns, but is also active in community struggles, particularly around environmental issues. At the above-mentioned congress, the Italian syndicalists passed a resolution opposing the construction of large, centralized power-generating facilities, whether coal or nuclear, asserting that such projects lead to the further militarization of society and are fundamentally anti-ecological. The USI favors the development of renewable sources of energy.

On other programmatic issues, Careri said the USI favored an immediate reduction of working hours to 35 a week, with no loss in pay, in opposition to the gradualist approach of the reformist centrals. The USI also works within the factory councils and other such structures to counter the attempts of the bureaucratic unions and the State to devoid them of the self-management content which they had at their birth in the hot autumn of 1979. In order to defend their autonomy and representativity as instruments of the rank and file, the revolutionary unionists have proposed frequent rotation of offices and have issued a pamphlet on this subject.

In conclusion Careri confirmed that, while the USI is still small, its progress over the last few years has been encouraging, and that the revolutionary unionists remain committed to building an alternative to the corporatist unions.

Mike Hargis

IRISH WORKERS WIN WITH DIRECT ACTION

White-collar workers employed by the Dublin City Council have come up with a strategy which makes it tough for the councillors without the public's being much affected. Following is an interview with Patricia McCarthy, a member of the Local Government and Public Service Union Branch.

What provoked the dispute?

Last year's re-organization of local authority areas doubled our workload. At the same time management was refusing to fill vacancies and was even looking for a 5% cut in staffing.

So what was your claim for?

The claim, which was agreed on by the branch, was for 68 new jobs. Management rejected this out of hand and even refused to talk to the union about it.

How did you respond to this?

We placed an embargo on all work having anything to do with the councillors after this was agreed to at a general-membership meeting of our branch. Nothing that would require an answer in the council chamber was touched, none of the normal business was done. The first effect was that the councillors couldn't get the information for all those "through my representations I have got for you..." letters. This really annoyed them.

Was support for the action solid, or was there some scabbing?

LGPSU members were totally solid. We had held sixteen meetings to make sure everyone clearly understood the issue, and had backed this up with leaflets. The only co-operation with management came from the handful of non-union people and the engineers who are in the IGWU [Irish Transport and General Workers Union].

What was management's reaction?

They climbed down from their high horse and made an offer of 25 new jobs after three months. The executive of our union wanted us to accept and sent a full-time official, Kevin O'Driscoll, to tell us it was the best we could hope to win.

Do you think he was right?

Of course he wasn't. We put the offer to the members and they threw it out on a vote of 248 to 134. We knew the embargo was hitting them, and we were going to stick it out.

Was anyone suspended from work for not co-operating with the bosses?

Some secretaries were put under great pressure to break the embargo, and we responded that if anyone was disciplined there would be an immediate strike. That put management in their place.

What was the final outcome?

In October (the dispute began in June) we were offered 43 new jobs, and we pushed the branch policy for all the vacancies to be filled. We were obviously hurting them, as they caved in and agreed to this. About 100 extra people got jobs because of this. So in the end we had won 143 jobs. This was accepted by us. Management then started stalling. We had to threaten to re-impose the embargo, and as a result new staff have been taken on since February.

What lessons are there in this?

The most striking thing was the support from the members over such a long time. It showed that if the workers are in control of their own dispute and understand the issues, they will fight. It also showed that ordinary people can do something about unemployment. We have the power not only to save jobs, but sometimes even to win new ones.

(reprinted from *Workers Solidarity*, Dublin)

World Labor Needs A Union

SPANISH DOCKERS UPDATE

The latest news from Coordinadora, the major Spanish dockers' union, at press time is that the latest 10-day general port strike of June 3rd through 13th was largely successful, forcing the Administration to finally enter a dialogue with Coordinadora on the new government port scheme.

Following initial conversations with Public Administrator Alvarez Espina on June 13th, the meeting of Coordinadora's Five Zones delegates decided to suspend the strike for the moment (including the port of Bilbao, which had been on strike for 50 days), but threatened to resume strike actions for at least 30 days if no progress was made.

Among specific actions in the latest series of strikes, Coordinadora gave particular recognition to the actions of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) in the British port of Gibraltar (at the tip of the Iberian Peninsula), who once again refused to unload a ship diverted from the strikebound port of Algeciras. In another action truck drivers occupied the harbor at Gran Canarias in response to employers' threats to stage a general lock-out on the island. The employers' association had been complaining that the Government delegate to the islands, Mr. Eligio Hernandez, had not been sufficiently authoritarian in his handling of the strike.

International News

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Mike Hargis

An Injury To One ...

SALVADORAN UNIONISTS DETAINED

On June 20th, Amnesty International reports, Salvadoran police broke into the homes of leading members of the Union de Carteneros y Empleados Postales de El Salvador (the Salvadoran Postmen's and Postal Workers' Union: SUCEPES) and took into custody Union President Victor Manuel Martinez, Vice-President Francisco Javier Palacios, Secretary Jose Antonio Garcia, and member Julio Rojas. Martinez and Palacios were later released, but Garcia and Rojas were held, reportedly for alleged involvement in the May 6th, 1986 killing of Jose Aristides Mendez, secretary general of ANEPES, the National Association of Postal Employees of El Salvador, described as pro-Government. SUCEPES has denied any participation in the killing.

The detention of the SUCEPES leaders is the latest in a series of arrests of labor unionists in El Salvador. In April of this year, four members of the Transport and Related Industries Workers' Union (STINTS) were detained by members of the National Guard. All four were said to have been deprived of sleep for long periods, kept handcuffed and blindfolded, forced to remain standing, and denied food and water. They were later transferred to La Esperanza men's prison. The exact charges against them, if any, are not known.

Martinez was previously detained October 31st, 1985 on the accusation of being a member of the Communist Party, but was let out on November 9th after SUCEPES took strike action in demand of his release.

Under the current state-of-siege laws in El Salvador, persons accused of offenses against the State are subject to 15 days of administrative detention without access to legal counsel or relatives. Amnesty International has received numerous reports that during this period detainees have been forced by torture or death threats to sign statements implicating themselves or others in offenses against the State, sometimes being forced to sign confessions or blank pages while blindfolded. According to Article 28 of Decree 50, these statements may be used as evidence against the prisoner.

* Readers interested in doing support work for these or other imprisoned unionists may contact Amnesty International.

THE CHARLES H. KERR COMPANY: 100 Years Old & Still Kicking

THE CHARLES H. KERR COMPANY: 100 YEARS OLD AND STILL KICKING

Anyone who hopes to find the truth about working-class struggles in books from the Big Business publishers probably believes in Santa Claus too. Commercial publishers, increasingly owned and operated by giant multinational conglomerates, are interested in nothing but profits. Their only interest in labor is in how to exploit it. And that's why the workers' movement has always needed—now more than ever—its own publishers.

The oldest independent labor publisher in the US—and probably in the whole world—is the Charles H. Kerr Company of Chicago, founded a few weeks before Haymarket in 1886 and still standing fast for the cause of working-class emancipation today.

Indisputably North America's foremost radical publisher in the years 1900 to 1925, Kerr brought out an astonishing range of books and pamphlets long since recognized as classics: Paul Lafargue's *The Right to Be Lazy*, Kropotkin's *Appeal to the Young*, William Morris's *News From Nowhere*, Marx's *Capital*, and major writings by such outstanding US radicals as Clarence Darrow, Gene Debs, "Big Bill" Haywood, Mother Jones, Austin Lewis, Jack London, Mary Marcy, Gustavus Myers, Carl Sandburg, and Upton Sinclair.

Like the rest of the working-class movement, Kerr subsequently suffered more than its share of hard times. But the venerable firm has made a remarkable comeback, and today, in its centennial year, the not-for-profit cooperative is once again recognized as a leading publisher of labor and radical literature.

One of Kerr's most distinctive qualities is the non-sectarianism that has characterized it from the start. The son of militant abolitionists, Charles Hope Kerr (1860 to 1944) was propelled steadily leftward by the march of events from Haymarket to the Pullman Strike eight years later, and was active in the Bellamyist/Populist agitation of the 1890s. Significantly, Kerr's catalogues for those years reflect the whole spectrum of revolutionary/reform currents of the period, including titles by anarchists, socialists, feminists, single-taxers, and free thinkers.

After 1900 Kerr became the principal US publisher of socialist books, and a few years later started publishing IWW literature as well. Labor historians have noted Kerr Company connections with the Socialist Party, especially with its left wing, but the links to the IWW have received much less attention. It is noteworthy, however, that apart

from Debs, the SPers who were closest to Kerr (such as Ralph Chaplin, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Covington Hall, William D. Haywood, and Mary Marcy) are all better remembered today as Wobblies rather than as Socialists. Mary Marcy's *International Socialist Review*, published by Kerr, has been generally acknowledged as the SP left wing's leading journal; but as Paul F. Brissenden observed in his pioneering study of the IWW, the *Review* was also "virtually an IWW organ" whose contributors included Joe Hill, Ernest Riebe, Vincent St. John, and many other Wobblies in addition to those mentioned above.

Indeed, it could be said that Kerr has done more than all other US Left publishers combined to keep alive the IWW's conception of a revolutionary, libertarian, anti-bureaucratic socialism based on workers' self-management. Not surprisingly, several of those who helped reactivate the firm in the early 1970s were in fact Wobblies, including Irving Abrams and Fred Thompson, who between them had chalked up over a hundred years of active duty in the class war.

Last year, when union militants, activists, and labor historians started a support group, the Friends of the Kerr Company, to help Kerr raise funds and collect old books for the firm's Rare and Out-of-Print Department, Wobblies like Minnie F. Corder, Carlos Cortez, Sam and Esther Dolgoff, and Henry Pfaff were once again in the forefront.

Kerr's current resurgence started with several IWW-related publications, most notably its reprint of Ernest Riebe's *Mr. Block* comic book; Covington Hall's poems, *Dreams and Dynamite*; and Mary Marcy's anti-war writings, *You Have No Country! Workers' Struggle Against War*. The just-published *Haymarket Scrapbook* contains much IWW material.

Scheduled for publication later this year are a new and expanded edition of Joyce Kornbluh's *Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology*; Henry McGuckin's never-before-published *Memoirs of a Wobbly*; and a volume of selected writings by the one and only T-Bone Slim.

In these dark and dismal days of war, union-busting, rampant racism, poverty, police terror, and the whole bottomless pit of political swinishness, it is a real solace to be able to wish the Kerr Company well as it starts off on its second hundred years.

For more information on Kerr, and to get on its mailing list, write: Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company, 1740 West Greenleaf Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60626.

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FAREWELL, FELLOW WORKER

Fellow Worker John Miller, also known in the organization as Jack Leonard, died on May 20th in Seattle at the age of 96.

Jack lined up during the Agricultural Workers Organization efforts in the wheat fields, and took part in several free-speech fights in Minot and elsewhere. He came west to join the Northwest timber organizers, arriving just in time to be beaten at Beverly Park, shot at aboard the *Verona* in Everett, and become one of the 74 Everett defendants.

The Government drafted Jack and then sent him to Alcatraz for distributing 12,000 IWW leaflets around Camp Lewis. He always maintained that they gave him more credit than he was due, and they had to frame him to catch him. He stayed on the Rock until pardoned by Harding.

Jack met his wife Violet at an IWW May Day picnic, and they settled in Seattle's south end. He subsequently left the organization when he became self-employed—without abandoning the IWW principles of organizing and troublemaking. He retired from the city employees' union in 1954, and continued rabble-rousing. Up until the last year of his life, Jack spoke often throughout the Puget Sound area about revolutionary unionism and his experiences advocating it. He rejoined the IWW several years ago.

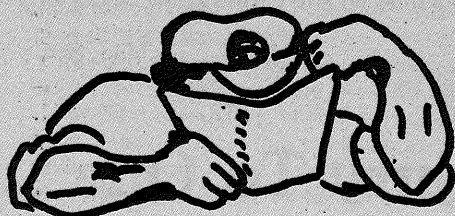
Jack's account of his Wobbly experiences is included in Kornbluh's anthology *Rebel Voices*, and together with his partner Violet he appeared in the documentary film *The Wobblies*.

SID LENS: 1912-1986

Labor organizer, anti-war activist, and radical historian Sid Lens died in Chicago June 18th at the age of 74. Organizer of auto workers' sitdown strikes in the 1930s, Lens was a lifelong advocate of working-class direct action and class solidarity, and was American labor's best-known individual opponent of the AFL-CIO's suicidal reliance on "lesser evil" politicians. He was also a frequent and generous financial contributor to the IWW. When the Chicago Branch formed its Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee in the early 1960s, for example, his 50-dollar check was the first contribution to be received.

Lens's many books are a valuable contribution to insurgent workers everywhere. *Left, Right, and Center* (1949) remains a trenchant critique of the whole fiasco of "business unionism". *The Labor Wars* (1974) is a compact and informative survey of US labor history. One of his last published essays was an account of the 1886 Haymarket Tragedy for the Charles H. Kerr Company's recent *Haymarket Scrapbook*.

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Books for Union People



LITERATURE

Practical and Informational:

() Organizing Manual	.75
() Collective Bargaining Manual	2.50
() Labor Law for the Rank and Filer *	2.50
() One Big Union (About the IWW)	1.25
() Workers' Guide to Direct Action	.35
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() Unions and Racism	1.00
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LUCY PARSONS POSTER AVAILABLE

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Bulk orders of five or more of any item on the IWW Literature List, unless otherwise indicated, may be ordered at a 40% discount if orders are prepaid. We offer a 30% discount on similar orders which we must invoice. Postage will be added to all orders that are not prepaid. Please allow three weeks for delivery. (ND) indicates that no discount is available.

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Introduction to the IWW: 10¢ each; bulk rate 40% discount, paid in advance. San Francisco IWW, PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140.
Solidarity Bulletin (monthly publication): \$10 a year. Vancouver IWW, PO Box 34334, Station D, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6J 4P3.
IWW baseball caps (one size fits all): \$4 each, add \$1 each for shipping. University Cellar IU 660 Job Branch (checks to IWW), 341 East Liberty, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107.

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sound of a distant drum

Each weekend there is the ritual riot outside Fortress Wapping as the print-union pickets of Sogat and the splinter groups of the various communist revolutionary parties of the proletariat fight it out with the mounted and riot police. As the huge lorries roll out through the police lines, each loaded with national newspapers, the embattled print pickets feel that they are fighting a rear-guard action in a war that should never have been started.

For the happy-time weekend revolutionaries throwing bricks and political slogans at the overtime-grabbing police, it is a one-day event and a break from the drear misery of the workplace or unemployment queue. But for the print workers it is now a publicly-proclaimed betrayal of their industrial action, in that Brenda Dean, their union boss, and her back-room boys are poised and happy to grab Rupert Murdoch's offer of a settlement to the 5500-odd sacked or striking print-union members of Sogat and the NGA.

The offer is 50 million pounds (and one pound equals \$1.497, about the cost of a pint of beer) plus, and this is what makes the British Labour Party and the union top brass scream for a settlement—the gift to the union of the empty *Times* printing plant and its printing equipment, wherewith the union and politician bosses could print their very own left-of-right newspaper. After the last great war, the British miners were given the coal mines, the railway workers the railways, and the power workers the power stations, and we all know that under State capitalism they and I still owned nothing, and any print-floor worker would be foolish to believe that this offer from strikebreaking media mogul Murdoch means anything other than that the print palace would end up as always in the educated fingers of that ol' left-wing-proclaiming middle class.

And the 50-million-pound share-out? They must solve that problem themselves. The miners were betrayed, and this is the Judas inflation-updated 30 pieces of silver. And TV camera-shy Brenda Dean, the Sogat print strikers' leader, is waiting now with fingers crossed for the result of the ever-so-secret postal vote that she and the Sogat top brass favored and pushed through; for one must accept that the striking majority are not those fighting the police riot shields outside Fortress Wapping, but the few thousand "sleepers" watching on their TV sets the battle fought each weekend in their names. And given the secret postal vote and a cut of some 50 million pounds, they will as always vote to sell out. At this moment in Einsteinian time, only Dubbins of the NGA will have nought to do with a secret postal ballot, for his 800 sacked craftsmen feel that in the Great Share-out they, as the aristocracy of the printing trades, should get a bigger cut, as befits their clean fingernails.

In all honesty, I cannot get idealistic over any elitist, closed-shop union wherein one needs a friendly hand to get a union card. Still I will state that one must fight the authorities of the hour and the union-breaking boss, but in defense of trade-union principles and of one's fellow committed working men and women, and not in defense of any sweetheart union that has little regard for the uncommitted laboring man and woman outside a tightbound circle.



Britain is quickly moving into a nationwide postal strike over a speedup of work and a sacking of men and women, and if that strike takes place then, as with the miners' strike, it should—nay, must—be a common battle; for if this bastion falls in the matter of work speed-ups, sackings, and lowered wages, then the whole of the laboring working class are again at risk. The miners were betrayed, with the result that the transport-union bosses caved in and the print-union bosses are ready to sell out. So place no faith in honor, loyalty, or promises sworn when the pop group plays the Red Flag.

The Labour Party has officially consigned the Red Flag to the dustbin of history, and the draftsmen's union TASS (of the clean fingernails) have officially decided to disown Dave Kitson and no longer pay his 12,000-pound-a-year teaching fellowship at Ruskin College. But remember that one pound equals \$1.479, and Kitson spent 20 years in a South African jail as an anti-apartheid victim. Nelson Mandela has sent his support to Kitson, but in the fracas between TASS and the City of London Anti-Apartheid Group Kitson, after 20 years in a South African prison and then the dreaming spires of Oxford, has been booted out by the union. And rumor whispers that this is because the tiny Trotskyist Revolutionary Communist Group is in the background.

So Fortress Wapping, here I come.

Arthur Moyse, London

Case Dismissed

(continued from Page 2)

We hit the streets again, challenging the Establishment and flouting law and order with the Homeless Organizing Team. Chanting and flaunting our banners, we paraded through three of Los Angeles's finest hotels, catching the management too startled to banish us. At one of these hotels a couple of homeless citizens paused at the registration desk to plunk down \$4.57, apologizing that this was the amount they were granted for a night's shelter. The desk clerk smiled broadly, shaking her head at this little "joke" while TV cameras hovered.

We then marched back to the meeting of the County Board of Supervisors and smuggled in a couple of banners. Reminded that we were out of order, we stood our ground and drowned out the meeting with our chants. This time the Board chose not to make an issue of our insubordination, and ignored us.

Things are heating up fast in LA. Central America, SALT II, HOT... which cause will land us in jail? I'm a little worried about the conservative nature of the jury sitting on our cases.

Dorice McDaniels



PATRIOTIC "MAJORITY" DECREES: NO FREE SPEECH

Some people believe that the Earth is flat, or that Shakespeare didn't write Shakespeare's plays, or that capitalism is worth saving. Stranger yet, some folks actually seem to believe that patriotism—old-fashioned, red-white-and-blue, flag-waving, mud-slinging patriotism—can be used to promote the radical Left.

The "Patriotic Majority" is the latest name adopted by a few hapless fuddy-duddies eager to give this grotesque delusion an organized expression. The new group is ready to do fierce ideological battle—in the middle of the road, of course—with the super-patriots of the far Right and the anti-patriotic internationalists of the revolutionary workers' movement.

If you think there's something phony about this belated apparition of the "Spirit of '76", you're probably right. Advertisements for the group speak of restoring "the ideals and aspirations of the American Revolution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights". But its founding conference in Chicago started off by banning all "outside" literature, thereby saving itself the bother of debates over conflicting views and other time-wasting democratic foibles. Rather than affirming the antiquated principle of free speech for everyone, the leaders patriotically preferred no free speech for anyone—except themselves.

This smallest of all "majorities" held its conference on the Fourth of July weekend—appropriately enough, for it fits perfectly into the tried-and-true all-American political tradition signified by those ringing watchwords "Do as you're told!", "Shut up!", and "Get out or we'll call the police!"

X323976

PREVENTING EDUCATION

The Chicago Public Library closes many branches at five because it "can't afford" to keep them open. Most working people can go to libraries only after five, and many school kids have done their evening homework in libraries, both to enjoy easy access to reference books and because when the grownups get home, the house gets too noisy. Yet top library officials continue to draw fabulous salaries. The old Chicago Main Library, once filled with students and other people, stands almost empty, many of its books hidden for years in a warehouse. Millions were spent making it over into a "cultural center" that is almost useless. Meanwhile, newspapers speak of multi-million-dollar scandals over the acquisition of a new downtown library site.

A little over a mile north of the old downtown library, nearly 14,000 people live in the squalor of the Cabrini-Green housing development, where folks shoot at each other almost daily. The nearby branch library, now also serving a large area outside the project, contains only about one book for each person in Cabrini-Green, and in the afternoons the grownups are told to leave so the kids can study.

In Chicago, as in most other big cities, school kids are shoved from grade to grade whether they have learned what was supposed to have been taught them or not. Thus kids from illiterate or indifferent homes become more handicapped each year because they have never absorbed the basics. But since most illiterate families live close to others in the same plight, the kids sense no discomfort... until they start looking for jobs.

The whole thing looks suspiciously like a planned disability, favored by some of the more-literate families who are misled into thinking it gives their kids an edge. Meanwhile, the lifting and lugging jobs open to the less-literate shrink, and the paperwork gets done overseas by satellite. Solidarity is needed off the job as well as on it!

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IDAHO: IWW Delegate, Route 1, Box 137, Potlatch 83855.

ILLINOIS: Chicago General Membership Branch and General Defense Committee Local 2, 3435 North Sheffield (Suite 202), Chicago 60657, (312) 549-5045. Meetings first Sunday of each month at 1 pm. Champaign-Urbana IWW Group, Jeff Stein, Delegate, Box 2824, Station A, Champaign 61820.

KANSAS: General Defense Committee, Arthur J. Miller, Secretary, Box 6130, Kansas City 66106.

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MICHIGAN: Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti 48197, (313) 483-3478. Meetings second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in Room 4001 of the Michigan Union. University Cellar IU 660 Job Branch, 341 East Liberty, Ann Arbor 48104. People's Warehouse IU 660 Job Branch, c/o Sarah Rucker, 727 West Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor 48104. IWW Delegate, 415 Ethel, Grand Rapids 49506. MINNESOTA: Twin Cities General Membership Branch, Nancy Arthur Collins, Delegate, 1621 Marshall (3), Saint Paul 55104. Meetings third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

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US BASES LIMIT PHILIPPINE DEMOCRACY

On July 4th the Philippine Government made it clear to the Philippine people where their limits of freedom of assembly lay: in protesting US military bases in their country. Anti-riot forces using truncheons, guns, and tear gas dispersed 5,000 demonstrators who had gathered at the US embassy in Manila to protest US bases in the Philippines and ongoing intervention in Philippine affairs.

After the clash the protesters regrouped in front of a Government office where a public hearing on the US bases was being held by a commission appointed by President Aquino to draft a new constitution. The hearing was stopped when the commissioners decided to join the demonstrators, now 10,000 strong, on their march back to the US embassy. The presence of the commissioners dissuaded the police from attacking the demonstrators a second time.

FT

Did You Notice ?

BUSY WEEK FOR REAGANITES: During the last week in June the US Supreme Court upheld Reagan's 1981 order barring any of the PATCO air-controller strikers from ever working for the Federal Aviation Administration, ruled that airlines have the right to discriminate against handicapped persons, and ruled that the Georgia anti-sodomy law was constitutional. On July 1st, the National Labor Relations Board, not to be outdone, decreed that employers can legally hire "temporary replacement workers" during legal lockouts as long as there is "no evidence of anti-union motivation".

KEOKUK GRAIN MILLERS LOCKED OUT

In 1982, Grain Millers Local 48, of Keokuk, Iowa, granted the Hubinger Company (a subsidiary of H.J. Heinz that produces high-fructose corn syrup) concessions totaling \$1700 per worker per year, and gave up a cost-of-living clause in their contract. In 1985, Local 48's 328 members voted against further concessions demanded by Hubinger that would have laid off 50 workers and slashed starting pay from \$11.11 an hour to \$8.50. But they agreed to continue working past contract expiration while talks continued.

When workers showed up for the first shift October 1st, the gates were locked. Since then the Company has hired scabs, and upon hearing an appeal from Hubinger the Iowa Department of Job Service Appeal Board reversed an earlier decision that had ruled the locked-out workers eligible for unemployment benefits, and ordered the workers to repay 25 weeks of benefits.

The Keokuk workers' only hope lay in an appeal to the National Labor Relations Board, and recent NLRB rulings legalizing the hiring of scabs during lockouts ended that. Support funds for AFGM Local 48 should be sent to the Locked Out Employees Hardship Fund, 301 Blondeau Street, Keokuk, Iowa 52632.

HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

First the good news: As the *IWW* goes to press, Western copper miners are resisting company pressure to accept 33% pay cuts. The bad news is that about 4700 workers at Arizona's Magna and Pinto Valley Copper Companies and Asarco Corporation have agreed to 20% cuts. Negotiations on the size of cuts have yet to be resolved at Inspiration Consolidated and Kennecott Copper. All the companies have thousands of workers on layoff, and union negotiators have justified their acceptance of cuts by suggesting that some of these jobs will be regained if the companies "improve their competitiveness".

Hanging over the Inspiration and Kennecott talks is the memory of the strike three years ago at the Phelps Dodge Corporation's Arizona operations. The company kept operating in the face of the strike, using the state police to quell the strikers and import scabs. The strike ended early this year when the Phelps Dodge scabs voted out the unions.

Bob Petrus, chief negotiator in the Kennecott talks for a consortium of 14 unions led by the United Steelworkers, suggested that the company was hoping for a strike, refusing a union demand granted by Newmont's Magna Copper that the lost wage levels be restored if the price of copper rises above the present 63¢ per pound. Even before negotiations began, Kennecott had started hiring scabs and preparing supervisory personnel to operate plants in case of a strike.

FAIR TRADE: When the US Government offered powdered milk for Polish children after the Chernobyl nuclear accident, the Polish Government offered to reciprocate with 5,000 sleeping bags for the homeless of New York City.

SHOPS IN THE IWW

Every so often we receive a request that the *Industrial Worker* publish a list of IWW-organized shops. Space precludes listing these each issue, so keep this list for future reference.

Printing and Publishing House Workers IU 450: Whetstone Press, 94 Green Street, Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts 02130. The Print Shop, 333 Terry Road, Hauppauge, New York 11788. Harbinger Press, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. Partners Press, 410 West Washington, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103. Ren Center American Speedy Print (two locations), Detroit, Michigan. Einhorn Druck Und Presse, 205 West Main, Morenci, Michigan 49256. Eastown Printing Press, 415 Southeast Ethel, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506. Lakeside Press, 1301 Williamson, Madison, Wisconsin 53703. Gato Negro Press, Chicago, Illinois. Signature Press, Box 92, Bisbee, Arizona 85603. The Correct Line (typesetting), 3924½ Park Boulevard, San Diego, California 92103.

Foodstuff Workers IU 460: Fairhaven Co-op Mill, 1115 Railroad Avenue, Bellingham, Washington 98225.

Health Service Workers IU 610: Maryland Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (office staff), 2202 Maryland Avenue, Suite 1A, Baltimore, Maryland 21218.

Educational Workers IU 620: Ann Arbor Tenants Union (office staff), Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Restaurant, Hotel, and Building Service Workers IU 640: Brite Day Janitorial Co-op, Minneapolis/Saint Paul, Minnesota.

General Distribution Workers IU 660: People's Wherehouse, 727 West Ellsworth, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. University Cellar, 341 East Liberty, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107. Mifflin Street Co-op, Madison, Wisconsin.



LABOR STRIKE EXPLODES AT McCREARY PLANT

(Editors' note: The following article was submitted by a reader in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While the IWW does not advocate the use of violence as a method of industrial struggle, we recognize that such desperate acts will occur when workers' backs are pushed against the wall and the law makes more-peaceful methods ineffective. We are printing this article also to illustrate the growing militancy and combativity being exhibited by struggling workers in this bastion of capitalism, the US.)

William Lyle Anderson, a maintenance worker at the McCreary Tire and Rubber Company in Indiana, Pennsylvania, was killed in the early morning hours of June 8th when a plastic explosive device he was trying to affix to the plant's main generator detonated prematurely. Anderson, 42, who left behind a wife and two children, was a member of United Rubber Workers Local 947, which has been locked out of McCreary since March 2nd. Pickets have been unable to deter police-escorted scabs from operating the plant, and thus the Company has not had much incentive to negotiate a settlement. Anderson apparently hoped to dislodge the scabs from the Local's jobs by disabling the plant, thereby forcing the Company to come to terms with the union.

Around 200 union workers were locked out of McCreary, a manufacturer of specialty tires owned by the Polymer Enterprises Corporation, when they refused to accept a new contract including a two-tier wage structure, a two-year wage freeze, and a reduction in holidays and health and retirement benefits. Although Local 947, which has a militant history with strikes in 1966, 1975, 1977, and 1983, offered to work under the old contract while negotiations went on, the Company decided to replace its union employees. McCreary says it has not made a profit in a decade and lost \$1.5 million in 1985. The McCreary Industrial Products Company, which is also owned by Polymer, reported a 1.4-million-dollar profit in 1985, yet almost half its employees were laid off and their jobs were moved to Tennessee. Local 947 members believe McCreary Tire and Rubber is likewise slated to be moved out of the area.

The 14-week lockout has generated increasing acts of violence. Equipment has been destroyed, tires slashed, windows broken, gunshots fired. The home of one "replacement worker" was burned; and though McCreary has put up a 5,000-dollar reward, union members say the Company staged the fire to frame the union. On the Monday morning following the bombing attempt, members of Local 947, wearing black armbands in mourning for Anderson, demonstrated militantly at the plant gates. Although the scabs were made somewhat uncomfortable as they crossed the picket line, police once again cleared the way. That night a picket was seriously injured when, according to police, a scab drove his car into a group of strikers.

Hardly a stereotypical "wild-eyed, bomb-hurling anarchist", Anderson has been portrayed by the media, the Company, and the union as a veteran worker and good family man brought to a futile and desperate act by anger and frustration. This view conveniently dissociates the man from his deed, engendering pity for Anderson and his family while de-legitimizing his attempt to sabotage the generator. Union militant thus becomes psychopath, direct action behavioral aberration. The public is spared an awareness of class struggle and is reassured that the values that made Anderson a good family man and respected member of the community and those that led him to become a saboteur cannot be shared within the same heart.

The facts, however, do not indicate that Anderson crossed the line between sanity and insanity, even if he did cross the one between legality and illegality. And while it may be true that breaking the law can be a desperate act, it can also be a heroic one. Weighing the well-being of the families of 200 workers against the cost of a generator, Anderson decided that the equipment was expendable. A truly-irrational person might walk into a plant and indiscriminately unload an automatic rifle, or might recklessly drive his car into a crowd of innocent people. Anderson, however, while putting himself at risk of arrest, injury, or even death, jeopardized no lives other than his own. Moreover, in view of the escalating violence occurring between unionists and "replacement workers", Anderson's violence against property, resulting in the closing of the plant and ending of daily confrontations, may have prevented further violence against humans.

Nor was his act uncalculated or impulsive from a strategic perspective. Although a spokesperson for McCreary was quoted in the *Pittsburgh Press* as having said that if Anderson's attempt had succeeded "it would have eliminated all chance of them getting their jobs back", it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the Company, with non-union "full-time, permanent employees" in place,

had written those jobs off long ago. Having exhausted the legal, conventional means of bringing the Company to the negotiating table, the union faced a long, losing war of attrition unless something extraordinary was done.

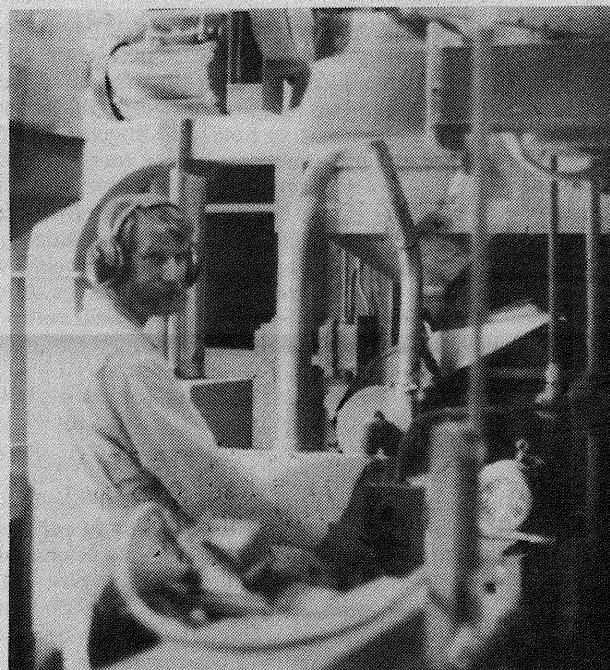
Interestingly, the McCreary mouthpiece also admitted that if Anderson had been able to properly detonate the explosives, the plant would have been shut down for weeks. That certainly would have rendered scab labor ineffective, which was Anderson's main intention, and thus kicked away the main prop of the Company's intransigence. Indeed, even though Anderson failed, McCreary announced less than a week after the attempt that its representatives would meet with union negotiators. Up to this time, there had been only three negotiating meets.

Anderson's sacrifice has also yielded at least one other positive consequence: renewed vigor and solidarity on the part of his union brothers and sisters. First came the Monday-morning mass picket. Then, on Friday, June 13th, local police, county deputies, and 30 state troopers in full riot regalia watched as some 600 union members and supporters demonstrated near the McCreary plant, which the management prudently closed for the duration of the hour-long protest. The rally was organized by the spouses of the strikers, including Andrea Anderson. "I'd like everybody to know that Bill is also here," she told the crowd.

The members of Local 947 were fighting for their jobs and their way of life. Now they are also fighting so that William Anderson will not have died in vain.

Thumbs Up!
W. L. Iams
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Around Our Union



The Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill in Bellingham, Washington became an IWW shop in the summer of 1985. The Mill is worker-owned and -managed, and produces high-quality organic, whole-grain flours. But although self-managed on the inside, it is subject to the pressures of the "free market". Co-op workers value their IWW membership because it helps them to maintain a sense of solidarity with other workers and a worker-oriented management perspective in the face of these pressures. Fairhaven's equipment includes two hammer mills, a stone mill, and flour filtering and bagging equipment. A lounge area is used by the Bellingham General Membership Branch for meetings. Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill has three workers, who work on a two-weeks-on, one-week-off schedule, since it takes two people to run the place. All jobs at the mill are shared by the workers.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL OUTING

The New York General Membership Branch of the IWW invites all Wobblies and their families and friends to the 1986 IWW Northwest Regional Weekend Outing August 15th through 17th at "Wobble-In".

Wobble-In is located in Central New York State about 70 miles west of Albany and 30 miles south of the NYS Thruway. It is some 60 acres of woodland, sitting off a country road with ample space to pitch a tent, an outdoor group eating and gathering spot, and a mobile trailer with indoor plumbing and shower.

Wobblies from different cities and states will have a chance to meet and network with each other around union issues in this informal setting. There will also be time to explore the surrounding area, which includes dairy farms, the Baseball Hall of Fame, the Farmers' Museum, and the home of James Fenimore Cooper. Nearby Otsego Lake offers water tours, swimming, and freshwater fishing, and the New York Branch will provide all meals for the weekend.

For detailed travel directions, and to let the Branch know you plan to attend, write to Wobble-In Outing, New York IWW, PO Box 183, New York, New York 10028, or call (212) 662-8801.